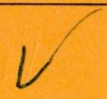


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AMERICAN RUSSIAN CULTURAL
ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Annual Report
1944

200 West 57th Street, New York City



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American Russian Cultural Association, Inc.

Annual Report — 1944

THE Board of Directors is pleased to report for the year 1944 a continuance and acceleration in the manifold expansion of ARCA activities. Many more cultural and educational institutions in America have become acquainted with the work of ARCA, and have shown gratifying response to its aims and projects. A survey of the year's work shows steady progress in meeting the ever-growing need for cultural exchange between the United States and the Soviet Union.

In recent months ARCA has received a great deal of material from VOKS, Moscow, some of which came directly and some through the kind assistance of the USSR Embassy in Washington. Especially useful for ARCA purposes were the following: Set of colored reproductions entitled "History of the USSR" (from the paintings of famous artists of Russia); Pictorial Monograph "USSR Heroes, Twice Decorated"; Pictorial Monograph "Defense of Sevastopol"; a large group of photographs of the Graphic Arts of Russia (wood cuts, line cuts, drawings, etchings, illustrations); Monograph "Lermontov Portraits"; a great many separate photographs depicting the Soviet Union Front and Rear activities during the Patriotic War (Films, Theater, Literature, Music, Agriculture, Science); a number of Chronicles on Literature, Painting, Theater, Music, Cinema, Architecture, Chess, Fine Arts, Science; also complete works by Pushkin, Lermontov, Gorki, Mayakovsky, many works of fiction and poetry in Russian by the leading writers of the Soviet Union. ARCA wishes to express deep gratitude to VOKS for its splendid cooperation and constant interest in and response to the ever-expanding program of the American Russian Cultural Association.

It is with sincere regret that the Board of Directors announces the resignation of Mrs. Sophie Pregel, who, because of her many duties connected with the editing of her magazine "Novosselye", felt unable to continue her responsibility as a member of the Board.

Mr. Mark Slonim has asked for a one year leave of absence from active service on the Board of Directors, due to his acceptance

of a Professorship at Sarah Lawrence College. The Directors regret the loss of the cooperation and personal contact with Mr. Slonim for one year.

The Board announces with pleasure the election of Mr. Leonide Massine, the renowned dancer, stage director, and choreographer. Mr. Massine's election to Directorship opens for ARCA the possibility of spreading and stimulating interest in the Russian Ballet, with its vast influence upon development of the dance in America.

The Board of Honorary Advisors has been augmented by the election of Dr. Emil Cooper, of international renown in music and at present conductor of the Metropolitan Opera Company.

Miss Magdalene Lehrer, of Lansing, Michigan, an ARCA Life Member who has manifested constant and most fruitful interest and cooperation in ARCA work, has been unanimously elected Mid-western Representative of the American Russian Cultural Association.

Mrs. V. Dutko, of Florida, another active member of ARCA, has given splendid assistance throughout the year, translating from Russian into English a great amount of material to be used for lectures, articles, and information, and placed at the service of ARCA members.

Mrs. Dutko and Miss Lehrer have collaborated in the preparation, from material sent to them by ARCA, of two lectures, on music and art in the Soviet Union during the war.

The Russian language courses, initiated in the spring of 1943 by Dr. E. Markoff, are being continued under Mrs. Anna G. Zakina.

Dr. Markoff is presently engaged in research and preparation of a book on "Jefferson and His Influence on Russia and Eastern Europe". Her work is noted and highly praised by Prof. Gilbert Chinard of Princeton in his brochure, "Jefferson's Influence Abroad", published by "The Mississippi Valley Historical Review".

Mr. Michael J. Petchkovsky, former Secretary of the Pushkin Society in New York, in a letter to Dr. Markoff, has offered to present his valuable Pushkin collection, with ARCA's assistance, to a leading Pushkin Society in Soviet Russia. ARCA accepted this offer and wrote immediately to VOKS, Moscow, requesting contact with a Pushkin Society in the USSR.

At the request of "Current Biography" magazine, biographical data on Wanda Wasilewska was compiled by Dr. Markoff and

Mrs. Fosdick, and sent to the editors. It appeared in the July issue of the magazine, with a note thanking ARCA for the contribution.

An article by Joseph Weed, "ARCA", was published in the "Dawn of India", Calcutta, February-March 1944. An article, "Amidst the Russians in America", by Y. Okoff, appeared in "Slaviane", a magazine in Moscow, February 1944. ARCA and its activities were favorably mentioned by the author. The manuscript of Professor Roerich's book, "Slava", presented by Professor Roerich for the benefit of the Russian Red Cross, was received from India by ARCA, and forwarded to VOKS. Subsequently, in a letter from Ryessa D. Liberson, Chief, American Department, VOKS, Moscow, ARCA was informed that "The leading Soviet artists, at a meeting of the Painting and Graphic Section of VOKS, discussed at length Prof. N. Roerich's book 'Slava', which has evoked great interest . . ."

A photostatic copy of the manuscript of Mr. Charles Kingsford's Cantata, "We'll Answer Stalingrad", which was introduced at an ARCA Musicale and Reception, has been transmitted, through VOKS, to the Union of Soviet Composers, where it was "reviewed and highly appreciated".

"Survey Graphic's" special February issue, dedicated to Soviet Russia, contained a number of photographs selected by Mrs. Kellogg, Editor, from the ARCA collections.

On May 12th, Mrs. Frank J. Sprague of New York, well known collector of Walt Whitman editions, asked for the Bulletin issued in Russia on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the death of Walt Whitman. ARCA procured this Bulletin for Mrs. Sprague through Mr. George Knabe, American Department, VOKS, Moscow, and also sent to Russia, in return, rare bibliographical data and items of Mrs. Sprague's "Whitmaniana".

ARCA has begun the work of cataloging Russian Art in the United States. Letters are being sent out to museums and art collectors to gather data and information for this project. Among institutions and individuals who have already responded, the Chicago Art Institute, through Dr. Dudley Crafts Watson, ARCA Honorary Advisor, has been most cooperative and helpful. Mr. G. E. Kaltenbach, Museum Registrar and Keeper of Archives, devoted much time and care to the compilation of a large list, receipt of which was acknowledged with sincere appreciation by the Board.

During the months of January and February 1944, ARCA was engaged in collecting material for the Centenary of Rimsky-Korsakoff,

to be celebrated in the USSR. Photographs and programs were procured from the Metropolitan Opera Association, and from Mme. Yolande Mero-Irion, Director of the New Opera Company, and, through the research work of Mr. Stephen Sikorski, one of ARCA's most valued and helpful members, a vast amount of newspaper and magazine articles and books published in America was collected. The following Rimsky-Korsakoff material was carefully prepared, mounted, and sent to the Soviet Union through the kind assistance of Mr. V. Bazykin, First Secretary of the USSR Embassy in Washington: 19 mounted press clippings of the reviews by noted music critics in America of all Rimsky-Korsakoff's operas produced since 1908; "Masters of Russian Music", a book by M. D. Calvogoressi and C. Abraham; a book "Modern Composers" by Gladys Burch; 5 photographs — scenes from "Le Coq d'Or", produced by the Metropolitan Opera Company, New York; 2 programs of Metropolitan Opera productions of "Le Coq d'Or", March 1938, and "Sadko", April 1932, New York; 1 program presenting "Le Coq d'Or" by "Ballet Russe", Chicago 1934; 1 program presenting "Scheherazade" by "Ballet Russe", Montreal, Canada, October 1, 1934; 1 large reprint of many press clippings of the review pertaining to the productions of Rimsky-Korsakoff's operas by "The Art of Musical Russia"; 3 programs of "Kitezh", produced by "The Art of Musical Russia" March 3, 1936, at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York; 1 program — a performance of "Snegourochka" by the Philharmonic Symphony Society of New York, March 9, 1934; 1 program of Schola Cantorum of New York, December 23, 1925; 1 Review — Herald Tribune — April 8, 1934, "Schola Cantorum and Its Works".

The International Workers Order, Inc. — American-Russian Section — requested ARCA to help them arrange a music program for their National Convention which opened on July 4th, at the Hotel New Yorker, New York City. ARCA arranged a presentation by the Jefferson Chorus of Mr. Kingsford's Cantata "We'll Answer Stalin-grad". The Chairman publicly thanked Mrs. Fosdick for this contribution to the evening's program, and spoke highly of ARCA's work in the field of culture connecting the two countries.

A letter of congratulations from the Board was sent to Serge Koussevitzky, Honorary Advisor of ARCA, on the occasion of his 70th birthday, July 25, 1944.

On August 8th, Mr. Robert L. Redfield, member of the Honorary Board, wrote as follows: "My very sincere thanks to you for

the copy of "Soviet Art in Wartime". It was most kind and thoughtful of you to send it, and I shall read it with great interest. No words of mine can adequately describe my admiration for Russia and its people. I have read a great deal about what that country has accomplished in recent years, and feel certain that when this war is over the world will look towards that country with gratitude for having been the principal cause of victory . . .".

On June 8th a cable was sent by the Board of Directors to the Moscow University on the occasion of the scientific conference, "Role of Russian Science in the Development of World Science and Culture." In answer, the following cable was received from Professor Ilya Galkin, Rector of Moscow State University: "Moscow State University thanks you for greetings to scientific conference on "Role of Russian Science in Development of World Science and Culture" held in Moscow. Fostering of cultural relations between USSR and USA will promote further development of world science and culture and will bring nearer victory of United Nations over German Nazism — enemy of all progressive mankind".

ARCA received from the USO, Richmond, Va., a request for a speaker on Russia in relation to world issues of today, for their Sunday Forum. Mr. Valery Tereshtenko, Honorary Advisor of ARCA, was recommended, and the lecture was scheduled to be given early in 1945.

Letters of inquiry are continuously received by ARCA, from all parts of the country and from men in the armed forces overseas.

A large number of letters were received from public libraries throughout the country, thanking ARCA for the Annual Report and literature sent to them by Miss Lehrer, Midwestern Representative, and asking for the next Annual Report and any and all announcements and literature to be issued by the Association.

Beginning in October 1944, the Board of Directors has issued a Monthly Letter to all ARCA members. This Member's Letter serves as a monthly bulletin, giving a report of current activities and public events.

Three letters received by ARCA from Russian school children have evoked considerable interest in this country. Miss I. Fritsch contacted the Superintendent of Public Schools in Danbury, Conn., who advised her to get in touch with several schools directly. As a result, the three letters were enthusiastically received by two schools in Connecticut, and the students wrote quite a number of letters in

response. Mrs. Fosdick sent the Russian letters to the Ethical Culture School in New York, through Mrs. F. W. Klaber, Advisor of the Ethical Culture Schools, and a letter signed by the whole class was received in answer. These children also sent an embroidered arm band to one of the Russian school girls, making her an honorary member of their class.

The following is reprinted from Vol. 8, No. 2 of the Ethical Culture School Magazine, "The Voice of the School", December 1944:

A LETTER FROM RUSSIA.

(This letter comes to us through the kindness of
American Russian Cultural Association, Inc.)

Dear Scholars of America:

I am in the 4th Grade "A", School 183. I also am a pupil of the Central Establishment of Artistic Education for Children. I am studying literature. At the moment we are preparing for Christmas. We shall have a Christmas party and I shall recite a poem: "New Year in the School". I also belong to the dancing class. We study all types of dancing. Best of all I like the dance of a snowmaid and a waltz on ice.

I sent a present to the front and they acknowledged it. A soldier writes to me: "Study well and I shall fight against the Germans". My daddy is also at the front. I did what the soldier told me, and was a very good student. I had only good and excellent marks all through the first semester. My favorite studies are history and geography.

Beginning with January 1st we shall have our vacation. I want to visit various organizations. I shall skate, ski, and will do much reading. I love the books of Mark Twain, especially the book about Tom Sawyer. I saw the "Three Musketeers" in the cinema and I liked it. I am very much interested to know whether you study the Russian language in your schools. In our schools we study English and French. In the 3rd Grade I used to study German.

Dear scholars, please answer my letter. I shall be so happy to hear from you.

Galya Cherbuk

(Translated from Russian)

THIS IS THE ANSWER WE SENT

Dear Galya and Classmates:

We are the editors of the "Voice of the School" published by the Ethical Culture Midtown School, New York City, U. S. A. We are happy to receive your letter and shall print it in the next issue of our paper. We shall send you a copy.

We wonder how old you are. We are most of us eleven years old, and are in the Sixth Grade of School—the highest class of our Lower School. Next year we hope to go to our Upper School, Fieldston, where we stay until we are about eighteen years old. From there we hope to go to college.

We learn no foreign language in this lower school. At Fieldston they teach German, French, Spanish, Latin and Greek. Here we study history, geography, spelling, arithmetic, reading, ethics, art, music, gymnastics, arts and crafts, shop and science. We have plays and festivals.

In our school we have an organization

W ar
E mergency
R enovation
P roduction
S ervice

These WERPS make things the school needs and cannot get on account of shortage of labor. We are making you an honorary member and enclosing an armband for you.

We also have read Mark Twain's books and like Tom Sawyer. In our school we often give plays and puppet shows. In a recent puppet show we presented a scene from Tom Sawyer. Today one of our classes is giving a play about two great Negro Americans: George Washington Carver and Mary McLeod Bethune. One of the editors of this paper takes the part of President Roosevelt.

Please answer this letter soon. We hope we may become real friends.

Cordially yours,

(signed) Henry Jadow, Mona Sawyer
Grace Tang and Jimmy Ullman

LECTURES AND MEETINGS

Early in the year Mrs. Fosdick was approached by a representative of the Mutual Broadcasting System, station WOR, who were planning to run several Saturday broadcasts for the United States Treasury Fourth War Loan Drive under the title of "Victory Auctions", for some donations from ARCA to be given to the highest bond purchaser. ARCA donated two striking "Tass Windows" for this purpose. Mrs. Fosdick was asked to speak at the second "Victory Auction", on January 29th, announcing the ARCA donation over the air, and giving her interpretation of the Russian war effort. After Mrs. Fosdick's presentation of the posters, which were exhibited before the radio audience, the highest bidder, who purchased \$15,000. worth of war bonds, received both posters as his prize.

Late in the winter season Mrs. Fosdick gave a lecture at the Columbia High School in Maplewood, N. J., speaking on "The Role of Art During the War in Soviet Russia". The lecture was given before the English Club, composed of graduating students of the high school and the faculty. The audience was deeply interested, and requested an open forum upon termination of the lecture, asking numerous questions of Mrs. Fosdick.

On February 15th, Mrs. B. Spinrad, school teacher of P. S. 132, Washington Heights, New York City, brought her class of 35 children, aged 12 to 15, for a 2½ hour session on Soviet Russia, given by Mr. and Mrs. Fosdick. Later, 24 enthusiastic letters of appreciation were received from the children. On April 21st, the Washington Heights School held a very successful pageant devoted to Russia, and full acknowledgment was given to ARCA as the source of inspiration and information for this event.

On March 15th, Miss Mildred Kappell, teacher at Emerson School, New York, brought her class of 15 students, aged 8 to 14, for a session on Russia given by Mrs. Fosdick. Several other teachers of the same school were also present.

On April 12th ARCA acted as host to The Nationalities Committee of the Russian War Relief, which held a Meeting and Reception for approximately 100 people. Miss de Lallo, Director of the National Committee, wrote a letter thanking the ARCA Directors for their hospitality.

On June 3rd, a group of the Furriers' Joint Council of New York, under Mr. Julius Schatz, Educational Director, visited ARCA to view the Exhibition "Historic Cities and Cultural Monuments of Russia."

A lecture on Sunday, October 22nd, by Mr. Valery Tereshtenko, Honorary Advisor of ARCA, entitled "USSR: Unity in Diversity" was very well attended. Mr. Tereshtenko gave an excellent lecture, speaking of the life and well-being of the many nationalities in the Soviet Union and of the cultural progress of each, giving profuse statistics. He especially stressed the close cooperation in affairs of national importance, and the strong bond of unity which ties the many nationalities in the Soviet Union into a close-knit family of nations. Mr. Tereshtenko was introduced by Mr. Fosdick, who acted as chairman and conducted a forum after the lecture, in which Mr. Tereshtenko answered questions from the floor. Since many in the audience expressed a desire to have a copy of Mr. Tereshtenko's talk, ARCA later mailed out a large number of copies, specially prepared, mimeographed and bound by Miss Lehrer, to members and others interested in it.

On November 14th, 30 pupils, boys and girls of Richmond Public School, Staten Island, N. Y., together with their teacher, Mrs. Lyons, visited ARCA and were given a talk by Mr. and Mrs. Fosdick on Soviet Union sports, art, music and theater. Later, on request, 21 photographs from the Exhibition "Russians at War and in Peace", were sent to them and exhibited for a period of two weeks. Mrs. C. Cerrata, the principal of the school, in a letter of appreciation to ARCA, reported that the Exhibition was greatly admired by the entire school.

A lecture given by Rockwell Kent, Honorary Advisor of ARCA, on November 19th, "The People's Artist in the Soviet Union", attracted a large audience. Mr. Kent drew a parallel between the American artist and the Soviet artist, and his talk aroused lively comments and discussions from the audience. He was introduced by Mr. Joseph Weed, who conducted the forum at the close of the lecture.

On December 10th, Olga Lang gave a lecture on "Human Relations in Soviet Russia". She outlined for the audience the principles and ethics which govern the life of Soviet Russia. An open forum was held after the lecture for a considerable length of time, as the audience manifested deep interest in Mrs. Lang's theme.

EXHIBITIONS

The ARCA Exhibition, "Historic Monuments and Cultural Treasures of Soviet Russia", consisting of photographs of ancient

cities, cathedrals, churches, palaces, museums and monuments of Russia, was sent on loan to the Detroit Institute of Arts, through Mr. Litvinoff, an ARCA member, and was shown with great success from February 13th to March 19th. The Board of Education of Detroit, the Michigan Society of Architects, The Detroit Wayne University, the Detroit Institute of Technology, promoted the ARCA Exhibition in their publications "Detroit Educational News", "Weekly Bulletin of the Michigan Society of Architects", and others. Most of the Detroit press gave reviews and press notices of the Exhibition, speaking very favorably about it. Photographs were taken of the hall where the Exhibition was shown at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Mr. Litvinoff was mainly responsible for the planning, publicizing, and in general with the successful arranging of this Exhibition.

ARCA's Midwestern Representative, Magdalene Lehrer, arranged on January 31st an Exhibition of photographic material, "Russians at War and in Peace", "Siege of Stalingrad", "Siege of Leningrad", and "Tass Windows", at Arbaugh Co., one of the largest department stores in Lansing, Mich. The Exhibition was widely publicized in the local newspapers in connection with the Fourth War Loan Drive, and continued until February 16th. After its termination at Lansing, this Exhibition was sent to the Yowell Drew Co., Orlando, Fla., and from there to a department store of the same company at Daytona Beach, Fla. It was then sent to E. W. Edwards Sons, Syracuse, N. Y., for April 15th through April 29th. Miss Lehrer then booked an extensive itinerary of about 13 weeks through the chain of Wieboldt Department Stores in the Middle-West, starting in Chicago, which was followed by a showing at Strain Bros., Great Falls, Montana.

The ARCA Exhibition which opened on January 31st in Lansing, Mich., was first shown on January 28th for one day at the Annual Conference of the Michigan Press Association at Michigan State College, Lansing, Mich., where it was viewed by a large number of editors and publishers from all over the country.

Miss Lehrer also arranged that the Exhibition held at the Detroit Institute of Arts be shown from April 1st to April 20th at Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich. A splendid photograph of it was received by ARCA. This Exhibition was sent thereafter to Camp Upton, N. Y., for the month of May.

Late in March, on request of the Russian War Relief, an ARCA Exhibition of photographs and posters was loaned to the

Samuel Tilden High School, Brooklyn, for one week.

The YWHA and YMHA in Newark received on request 16 "Tass Windows" from ARCA for their "Youth Fair", which was held on April 30th.

The following Exhibition was sent on July 3rd to Alliance, Nebraska, Army Base, in care of Orientation Officer Fred Brower: 185 photos — "Russians at War and in Peace" and "Blockade of Leningrad"; 13 "Tass Windows"; several books and brochures. After being exhibited one month there, it was returned to ARCA with an appreciative letter.

On August 11th, Mrs. Y. Lehman, Playground Director of P. S. 94, Bronx, received on request a one-week loan Exhibition from ARCA for their United Nations Exhibition.

Through Mrs. S. Ware, Chairman, Art Women's Club, Seewanee, Tenn., ARCA sent a large exhibition on loan for the month of September to the Seewanee University Art Gallery, where it was viewed by several hundred students of a military school.

Adelphi College, Garden City, L. I., requested and received from ARCA the Exhibition, "Historic Cities and Cultural Monuments of Russia", for showing from September 15th to the end of October. From here the Exhibition was sent to the Bowers Memorial Museum in Santa Ana, Calif., where it opened on November 10th, and was held over until January 16th. This Exhibition evoked a great deal of interest and was mentioned in press reviews in the local papers.

Mrs. Fosdick, consulting Mrs. Helen Blake, Director of Sovfoto, Inc., New York, selected 15 photographs of paintings of well-known Russian artists, to be enlarged and mounted in preparation for an Exhibition "Artists in the Soviet Union", opening in January 1945.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION

Among the many visitors during the summer of 1944 were Mr. William L. McKim, Director of the Department of Painting and Sculpture of "The Four Arts Society", Palm Beach, Fla., Miss Muriel Caswall, Home Life Editor of the "Boston Sunday Post", Miss Geoffrey Christensen, of Berkeley, Calif., and Miss Dorothy Stall, writer, who is preparing a book on "Chukchi". Miss Stall obtained some material for her book from the ARCA Reference Library.

Miss M. Nichols, ARCA member and teacher of English at Columbia High School, Maplewood, N. J., requested ARCA to send her material for class study on Russia. 14 books and brochures were sent to her on loan.

Miss Jane M. Seaver, Connecticut College, New London, Conn., wrote for and received information about Family Life in Russia.

On March 2nd, Lt. Philip Plachinsky, Orientation Officer, ASF, 1632nd Service Unit, received a selection of books on loan for the service men at Ft. Sheridan, Ill.

Miss Eleanor Eagle, student at Hunter College, requested permission for research work in the ARCA Reference Library pertaining to physical culture in Russia. After this research and compilation had been completed ARCA received the following appreciative letter: "March 13, 1944. Thank you very much for the use of your literature. It has provided me with a wealth of material for my report on 'Physical Education in Russia Since the Revolution'. The pamphlets, 'Sport in USSR', 'Parks of Culture and Rest in the Soviet Union', and 'New People of the Soviet Countryside' were especially helpful. However, I received much material from all the sources provided me. I appreciate your help very much, and will be glad to bring in my report upon its completion, in about a month or so. Thank you again for your trouble . . ."

Dr. A. Yarmolinsky, Chief of the Slavonic Division of the New York Public Library, visited ARCA to discuss a loan Exhibition for the spring, and took a great interest in the Reference Library. ARCA later sent duplicate copies of the following books and brochures requested by Dr. Yarmolinsky as a donation to the Library: "Moscow", by Konstantine Simonov, "Soviet Economy on a War Footing", by S. Gershberg, "Stalingrad Hits Back", by Vassili Grossman, "Stronger Than Death", "The Heroic Defense of Sevastopol", and "Soviet Women in the War Against Hitlerism". Franklin F. Hopper, Director of the New York Public Library, sent a letter of acknowledgment to ARCA for this gift.

In September, ARCA sent on request several copies of "Moscow News", "Embassy Bulletin", and copies of the book "We Will Not Forget", to Mrs. S. Ware, Chairman, Art Women's Club, Seewance, Tenn., and the same to Camp Walters, Texas, c/o Capt. Samuel Sudin, who requested it for an orientation course on Russia.

On November 1st, Mrs. Isabelle Bailin, of Woodside, L. I., requested permission for research work in the ARCA Library per-

taining to the literature and poetry of the Caucasus, Georgia, Armenia, and Dagestan. Mrs. Fosdick assisted her by translating a great deal of material for her from Russian, and by advising her on the selection of pertinent material in English. Mrs. Bailin is working at present in the war industry as a machinist, bench-lathe hand, and shop steward, and has great interest in and enthusiasm for Soviet Russia, especially for the many nationalities in the Soviet Union whose literature and poetry she wants to study.

Upon learning from Mrs. Dutko that Mrs. M. Mitz, Representative of the United Religious Schools and Universities in Florida, is anxious to bring the youth of America and Soviet Russia closer together along cultural lines, ARCA sent to Mrs. Dutko selective information and data for Mrs. Mitz.

On December 14th, ARCA gave to Mr. F. G. Barnet of Larchmont, N. Y. a portrait of Josef Stalin and two special text placards, for a Christmas party given by him for one hundred friends who are admirers of the heroism of the Soviet Union in the present war. Mr. Barnet came to ARCA at the suggestion of the Russian War Relief.

In addition to the above, the very numerous inquiries answered show that ARCA's function as an Information Center has steadily assumed more importance during the year 1944.

Preceding the Exhibition, "Artists in the Soviet Union", opening in January 1945, the Exhibition "Historic Cities and Cultural Monuments of Russia", was on view at ARCA continuously from October to January. These splendid photographs of the great masterpieces of Russian art and architecture, prior to the Nazi invasion and after their destruction, were seen by many individual visitors and crowds attending lectures, concerts, and other public events.

The permanent collection of 37 Nicholas Roerich paintings and a number of paintings by Svetoslav Roerich constantly evoked admiration from ARCA visitors.

Throughout the year, the Association was kept informed of the many activities of its distinguished Honorary President, Professor Nicholas Roerich, in India, which ran in close parallel with the ARCA work here. The Publishing House "Kitabistan" in Allahabad issued in commemoration of his 70th birthday, the 12th volume of his works, entitled "Himavat". This book is donated by Professor Roerich for the benefit of the Russian Red Cross. The following articles by Professor Roerich have been published widely in the art and literary magazines and newspapers of India: "Podvig", "Kiev",

"Great Novgorod", "Gorki", "Tolstoi and Tagore", "Farewell" (Gogol), "Pushkin", "Rossika", "The Russian Woman", "Derzhavin", "Musorgsky", "Dyagilev", "Theater", "Culture", "Moscow Art Theater", "Stanislavsky", "Mongolia", "Lovers of Art", "Subterranean Treasures", "Russian Art", "Talashkino", "Siberia", "Wings of Victory", "Glory". The articles appeared in various publications, some being published two or three times. Thus they were read by a multitude of readers and created many friends for Russia's culture.

Of the paintings of Prof. N. Roerich acquired by the Museums of India, the following were dedicated to Russia: "Victory of Alexander Nevsky", "Yaroslav", "Boris and Gleb", "Ringing", "The New Land" (People of Novgorod), "Nereditza", "And We Open the Gates", "Victory". In exhibitions, the following paintings especially drew wide acclaim: "Mikula", "Svyatogor", "Nastasya Mikulishna", "Giant", "Mstislav Udalo", "The Giants Are Awake". Thus, creative work, dedicated to Russian culture and headed by Nicholas Roerich, has been in constant progress in the Himalayas.

Professor Roerich and his son, Svetoslav Roerich, well-known portraitist, have donated for the Russian Red Cross 500 English pounds, and 10,000 rupees for military needs.

India marked the 70th anniversary of Professor Roerich's birth by publication of an illustrated Monograph, "Gurudev-Nicholas Roerich", in Trivandrum (Travankor), with text by P. Tampi and preface by the leading artists of India — Asit Kumar Halder, Bireevar Sen, Roy Chaudhuri.

The well-known scientist of India, Kalidas Nag, recently wrote as follows: "Our friend, the great artist Nicholas Roerich, always carries the Banner of Beauty — even now, when the world apparently is rolling down towards barbarism. His thoughts on Art fly alongside his masterful paintings devoted to the Himalayas, and we are grateful to him for his colorful epic of the Himalayan snows. He is a born artist! . . . Roerich is the First Russian Envoy of Beauty, and he has brought to India an immortal Covenant of Art. We are grateful to him for his inspiring thoughts and his incessant endeavors toward the union of the souls of Russia and India".

Rabindranath Tagore closed one of his last letters to Professor Roerich with this thought: "Your life is a consecrated one, and I hope that you will be preserved for a long time, so that you may continue your service to Culture and Humanity".

"HEROES"

In "Izvestya", Elena Bragantzeva writes about the preservation of the Novgorod treasures of antiquity. She also mentions Tamara Konstantinova, who has devoted a great deal of work, in a general way, for the people. Verily, the saving of the people's treasures is a true achievement. The names of such workers must be broadly recorded and preserved for posterity. Let all those be revered who, with danger to their lives, labor for the saving and preservation of cultural treasures. And if someone was not quick enough to understand how to save the national treasures in time, let his unfortunate name also be recorded.

We read in the newspapers about many volunteers who helped in the work of preservation of national treasures. These volunteers comprise a true legion of honor. Let all these valued workers be honored, as Heroes of Culture. Mother — the Heroine, this is a valorous distinction, but the Hero of Culture will also be recorded with reverence in the memory of the nation.

The war heroes are justly honored. The people will take pride in their names, knowing how much self-sacrifice was written into the pages of world history by the Russian Army. How many obstacles were conquered for the glory of the Motherland! A great epic was created, to be remembered by future generations. Victory, victory! And what an unusual victory — of a whole people which brought forth a host of heroes.

Alongside the war heroes there have arisen heroes of labor, who have given their strength also for the glorious victory. Side by side with them also labored the heroes of Culture — saviours of the folk treasure. And among them will be many unknown sympathizers, who cared greatly about the safeguarding of the cultural treasures. We have heard about many of them, but there are a great many more who have not yet been revealed. However, they will be found and the nation will bow to them.

Recently, Yakovlev spoke beautifully to the young people about the restoration of the art works. The architects are already working to rebuild the cities. It is astonishing to observe how much has been already restored in that tremendous national uprising.

Amidst pain and sorrow a people molds new glory for its beloved country. Heroes of war, heroes of labor, heroines — mothers, heroes of Culture, a great unconquerable host of heroes!

December 24, 1944
NICHOLAS ROERICH

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